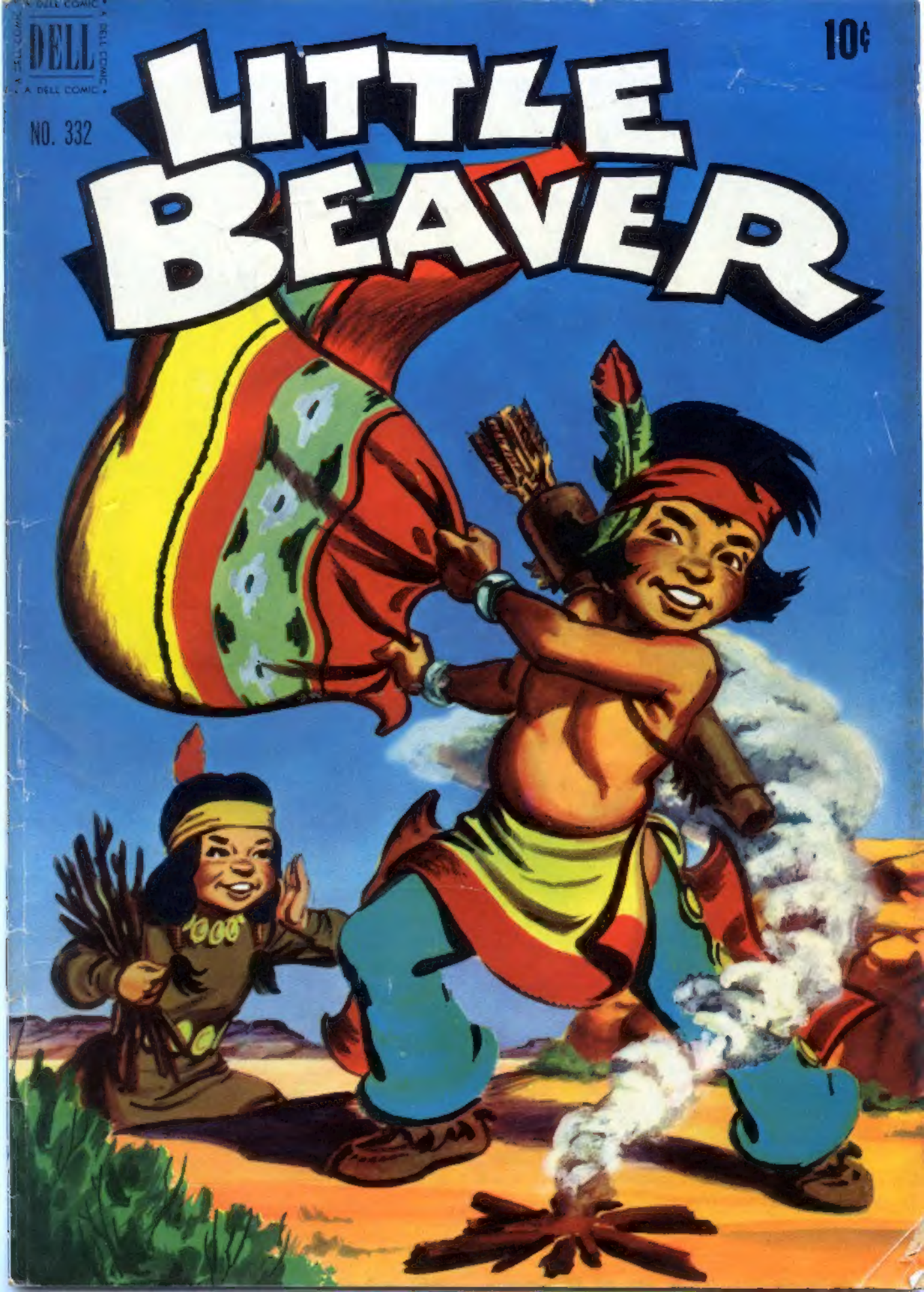
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LITTLE BEAVER

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

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"Ugh! Me heap big chief! Death to the White Man!" Many persons have come to believe, due chiefly to the influence of fiction and the movies, that these words were the only ones in the vocabulary of the American Indian. Actually, this was not the case.

White men who lived among the Indians for any length of time learned that, among themselves, the Indians were great talkers, possessed of a keen sense of humor. It was only among strangers that the Indian was quiet and solemn.

Indian languages were truly beautiful, filled with beautiful words necessary to describe the beauties of nature in which they lived. Indian warriors were expected to talk well, using the beautiful words at their command.

Besides the spoken languages, there was the sign language—universal among the Plains Indians living from Canada to Mexico. This language came into being BECAUSE of the variety of languages among the tribes. Some common medium of expression had to be developed so that the different tribes could converse fluently when meeting in Councils of Peace or War, without the use of interpreters.

Another advantage of the sign language was that the Indians could talk at great distances. In many instances, especially on the plains, it was easier to see a simple sign than it was to hear a spoken word.

(Continued on inside back cover)

LITTLE BEAVER, No. 332. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Single copies, 10 cents. Copyright, 1951, by Stephen Slesinger. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co., by arrangement with the Hawley Publications, Incorporated.

LITTLE BEAVER

BIG POWWOW BEGINS TOMORROW! WE RETURN NOW TO NAVAJO CAMP, PO-KO, SO ME CAN THINK OF THINGS TO TELL GOVERNMENT MEN!

HMPH! WE RETURN TO CAMP, ALL RIGHT ...WHERE ME FIX FOOD AND YOU WATCH PONY HERD TONIGHT, LIKE NAVAJO HEADMAN ORDER!

LITTLE BEAVER AND PO-KO ARE IN TUCSON, WHERE LEADERS OF MANY INDIAN TRIBES GATHER TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENTS . . .

HIM LET US COME TO TUCSON ONLY WHEN WE PROMISE WORK HARD, KEEP HEAP QUIET AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE! IF WE BREAK PROMISE, ME KNOW TWO LITTLE INJUNS NOT MAKE-UM ANY MORE TRIPS!

ME GOT MANY IDEAS FOR HELP-UM NAVAJOS. THAT MAYBE HEADMAN NOT KNOW ABOUT! AND ME NOT BREAK PROMISE... WHEN ME TELL-UM AT POWWOW, ME TALK IN QUIET VOICE!

WHY WE GO THIS WAY, LITTLE BEAVER? ME NOT LIKE STREET SO DARK AND SPOOK-UM LIKE!

ME THINK IT SHORT CUT TO CAMP! YOU STAY CLOSE TO ME, AND NOTHING BOTHER YOU!

ONLY TIMES YOU GET IN TROUBLE BE WHEN YOU GO OFF BY LONESOME...THEN MAKE HOLLER AND EXPECT ME RUN QUICK TO HELP YOU! THAT NOT SO?

L BOS ® 332-515

WHY YOU NO ANSWER...?

PO-KO! WHERE YOU BE? THIS NOT TIME OR PLACE FOR PLAY HIDE-UM AND GO HUNT! COME BACK, QUICK!

UGH! THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN! EVERY TIME ME TELL HER NOT TO DO SOMETHING, RIGHT AWAY HER GO DO IT! WHERE 'BOUTS ON STREET COULD PO-KO HIDE SELF NOW?

SOMEBODY OPEN UP DOOR! MAYBE PO-KO GO INSIDE BIG HOUSE!

BUENOS DIAS, SEÑOR!

PERMIT ME, SEÑOR...I AM DON FEDERICO ANTONIO DE HIGUERRA ...CABALLERO AND RANCHERO, GENTLEMAN AND RANCHER OF TUCSON!

HMPH! THAT BE HEAP MOUTHFUL OF NAME FOR SUCH SMALL BOY! ME LITTLE BEAVER!

MY MAMACITA SHE CALL ME TONIO...YOU DO SAME THEENG! EES SOMETHEENG GO WRONG? MAY-BE I CAN 'ELP!

SMALL SQUAW, PO-KO, MAKE DISAPPEAR FROM STREET MINUTE AGO...

MAYBE THAT EES VER' BAD, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER! MANY CHILDREN VANEESH FROM TUCSON EEN LAS' FEW DAYS... ALL BOYS, BUT MAYBE THEY STEAL MUCHACHAS NOW, TOO!

PEOPLE SAY THEY ARE KEEDNAP' TO WORK LIKE SLAVES EEN LEAD AN' SILVER MINES, FAR OFF EEN MOUNTAINS!

PO-KO NOT GO TO WORK IN MINES! ME THINK SHE IN THIS HOUSE ...AND ME GO HUNT HER, RIGHT NOW!

NOBODY LIVE HERE FOR MANY YEARS! EVERYBODY SAY EET EES HAUNTED... FULL OF GHOSTS!

IF ONLY GHOSTS BE INSIDE, THAT ALL RIGHT... ME NOT 'FRAID OF-UM! YOU RUN LONG 'BOUT BUSINESS, TONIO!

NO! DON FEDERICO ANTONIO DE HIGUERRA EES, BRAVE **CABALLERO**... AND **CABALLEROS** ALWAYS 'ELP **SEÑORITAS** EEN DISTRESS! I GO WEETH YOU!

PO-KO! YOU SOMEWHERE IN BIG HOUSE?

POR TODOS LOS SANTOS! MY **MAMACITA** BE VER' ANGRY IF SHE FIND OUT I COME HERE!

WE HUNT LOST SQUAW UP ABOVE, FIRST! IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, MAKE-UM BIG YELL, TONIO!

SI! SI! I YELL LOUD ENOUGH TO WAKE UP VAQUEROS FROM SIESTA ON MY RANCH!

NO SIGN OF PO-KO YET! ME HEAP WORRIED!

ALMA MIA! I FIND GHOST!

RUN FAST, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER! GHOST EES INSIDE ROOM...BIG AND WHITE! EET CHASE ME!

ME NOT SEE ANYTHING BEHIND YOU! STOP TO CATCH-UM BREATH, AND ME TAKE LOOK!

YOU HEAP SILLY, TONIO! GHOST BE ONLY PIECE OF FURNITURE! NOW ME FINISH LOOK IN HALL...

I GO WEETH YOU!

I PULL THEES OUT OF WAY SO WE CAN GET THROUGH...

NO PULL THAT! IT HOLD ROOF UP!

GET-UM OUT OF WAY BEFORE IT MASH YOU!

CARAMBA!

I THEENK I BE FLAT LIKE TORTILLA IF THAT HIT ME!

ME NEVER THINK ME MEET ANYBODY WHO MAKE MORE TROUBLE THAN PO-KO, BUT NOW ME HAVE! WE GO BACK DOWNSTAIRS!

ME HOPE ME FIND PO-KO HEAP QUICK! ME NOT LIKE STORY ABOUT CHILDREN KIDNAP-UM TO WORK IN MINES!

TONIO! WHAT YOU DO NOW?

I SEE EYES LIKE FIRE! THEY COME TOWARD ME!

FIRE-EYES COME FAST! RUN!

WAIT-UM A MIN... OOF!

AI-EE! ME FALL!

MAMACITA MIA!

THERE BE FIRE-EYES THAT SCARE YOU...ONLY ANGRY CAT! NOW, WAIT HERE WHILE ME FINISH HUNT...

WHAT BE FOOLISH TROUBLE YOU IN NOW, LITTLE BEAVER?

ME FOLLOW SMALL PUSSY-KITTEN INTO EMPTY HOUSE AND CHASE-UM TILL ME CATCH-UM...THEN ME COME OUT AND YOU GONE! WHY YOU NOT STAY PUT JUST ONCE?

YOU THE ONE NOT STAY PUT! YOU GIVE ME HEAP BIG SCARE!

SOMEBODY BAD STEAL CHILDREN FROM TUCSON TO BE SLAVES IN LEAD AND SILVER MINES, FAR AWAY! ME THINK THEY STEAL YOU!

HMPH! YOU TALK LIKE ME NOT ABLE TAKE CARE OF SELF! NOBODY HAS MAKE TRY TO STEAL ME!

AND NOBODY GOING STEAL YOU, EITHER! PO-KO MAKE HURRY-UP TRIP TO NAVAJO CAMP, RIGHT NOW!

WAIT, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER! I WISH TO MEET THE PRETTY SEÑORITA!

LET-UM ME GO!

I AM DON FEDERICO ANTONIO DE HIGUERRA, SENORITA PO-KO...YOUR SERVANT! YOU WEEL DO ME GREAT HONOR IF YOU VISIT MY RANCHO!

WAY YOU TALK BE STRANGE... BUT NICE! LITTLE BEAVER, CAN WE ACCEPT INVITATION?

COME HERE AND WE MAKE POWWOW ABOUT-UM!

WHY YOU NOT TALK POLITE LIKE HIM, LITTLE BEAVER?

IF TONIO KNOW YOU WAY ME DO, HIM NOT TALK POLITE, EITHER! IT LONG TIME BEFORE SUN GO DOWN, SO ME THINK IT ALL RIGHT WE VISIT RANCHO...IF IT NOT TOO FAR AND WE NOT HAVE TO WALK!

BUT ME GOT HUNCH ANY RANCHO HIM HAVE BE JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR TWO GOATS AND ONE COW! SO WE ACT NICE AND PRETEND IT HEAP BIG, WHEN WE GET THERE!

ME ACT REAL NICE, LITTLE BEAVER...AND THAT NOT BE HARD! ME LIKE TONIO!

HOW WE GET TO RANCHO, TONIO?

WE WEEL RIDE MY FINE PALOMINO HORSE! I LEAVE HIM NOT FAR FROM HERE!

THE THREE START TO TONIO'S RANCH...

AI-EE! THIS BE GREAT FUN, LITTLE BEAVER!

UGH! YOU RIDE BACK HERE, WHERE HORSE SPANK-UM YOU EVERY STEP HIM TAKE, YOU NOT THINK IT SO MUCH FUN!

PALOMINO WEEL TAKE US TO RANCHO VER' QUEECK!

BUCK, I WISH OUR WHOLE BUNCH WOULD PULL OUTA TUCSON RIGHT AWAY! WE'RE LIABLE TO RUN OUTA LUCK, GRABBIN' THOSE KIDS, AN' GET CAUGHT!

STEELE SAYS WE GOTTA WAIT UNTIL WE CAN PICK UP A COUPLE MORE... AN' STEELE'S TH' BOSS!

HEY, THERE'S THREE YOUNG'UNS! LET'S TAKE 'EM TO CAMP WITH US...INCLUDIN' TH' LITTLE GAL, SO SHE WON'T DO NO TALKIN'!

SURE! THEN WE CAN GET STARTED AN' SOON HAVE THAT MONEY TH' MINE OWNERS PROMISED US FOR BRINGIN' 'EM WORKERS!

W'EN MY FATHER DIE LAS' YEAR, IT MAKE ME HEAD OF FAMILY! NOW I RUN RANCHO...WEETH SOME 'ELP FROM MY **MAMACITA!**

TWO RIDERS COME FAST, TONIO! YOU KNOW-UM?

NO, I NEVER SEE THEM BEFORE!

ME NOT LIKE LOOKS ON THEIR FACES! MAYBE THEY THE CHILD-STEALERS!

ME NOT THINK THEY UP TO ANY GOOD! TONIO, MAKE HORSE RUN FAST AS POSSIBLE!

THAT PALOMINO'S A MIGHTY SPEEDY ANIMAL, CHIGGER!

YEAH...BUT HE'LL TIRE SOON, RUNNIN' WITH SUCH A LOAD! GET YOUR ROPE READY, BUCK...AN' GRAB ALL THREE IN ONE LOOP!

TONIO, HORSE MAKES STUMBLE! ME THINK HIM GET TIRED! AND MAN SWINGS ROPE TO THROW AT US!

MAYBE-SO WE SHOULD DROP OFF, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER, AND LET SEÑORITA PO-KO ESCAPE!

NO! IF YOU GET-UM CAUGHT, ME GET-UM CAUGHT, TOO!

IF ME NOT THINK OF SOMETHING QUICK, WE ALL WIND UP WORK-UM IN MINES, SURE!

MAYBE ME SEE WAY OUT! TONIO, THERE BE PLACE WHERE ROAD RUNS INTO LITTLE CANYON AHEAD...

SI! EET EES A **BARRANCA**, LITTLE BEAVER!

WHATEVER-UM BE, IT HIDE US FOR COUPLE MINUTES! RUN HORSE INTO BARRANCA! ...FAST, TONIO!

SHUCKS, I HOPED TO GRAB 'EM BEFORE THEY REACHED THAT GULLY!

WELL, WE'LL DRIVE 'EM OUTA ITS OTHER END! COME ON!

WHEN WE COME OUT, TONIO, TURN INTO BRUSH ON LEFT SIDE OF ROAD! ME THINK IT THICK ENOUGH TO HIDE US!

IF IT NOT, AND BAD MEN GRAB US, ME SCRATCH-UM THEIR FACES!

IF THEY GRAB US, PO-KO, YOU NOT DO ANYTHING! MAYBE ME TALK-UM INTO LET-UM YOU GO!

DUCK HEADS! BRUSH EES FULL OF THORNS!

IT THORNY, ALL RIGHT, TONIO! ME SCRATCHED IN DOZEN PLACES!.

I AM VER' SORRY, SEÑORITA, THAT THORNS SCRATCH YOU AND NOT ME!

MAKE-UM HUSH-UP! BAD MEN COME OUT OF BARRANCA!

HEY, BUCK, THEY'VE DISAPPEARED! WE'VE LOST 'EM!

NO, WE HAVEN'T! THE ROAD MAKES A DIP AN' THEN A TURN, JUST AHEAD! WE'LL SEE 'EM AGAIN, AROUND THAT TURN! COME ON!

CARAMBA! YOUR SCHEME WORKED, LITTLE BEAVER!

HIM ALWAYS THINK OF GOOD SCHEME QUICK! THAT WHY ME NOT MUCH SCARED WE BE CAUGHT!

WE NOT SAFE YET! HEAD STRAIGHT FOR RANCH, TONIO!

AT THE GREAT HIGUERRA RANCHO, NEAR TUCSON...

TH-THIS BE YOUR RANCHO, TONIO?

SI! AND MY **MAMACITA** WAITS FOR ME!...HOLA, **MAMACITA!** I AM BACK, AN' I BREENG SOME NEW **AMIGOS!**

SEÑORITA PO-KO AND SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER, PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MY MOTHER, DOÑA ANA LUISA DE HIGUERRA!

I AM PLEASED TO GREET MY SON'S FRIENDS! I HAVE SAVED **MERIENDA** FOR TONIO! YOU MUST JOIN HIM!

ME HAPPY TO KNOW TONIO'S MAMA!

FIRST, **MAMACITA,** I MAKE SURE EVERYBODY IS AT WORK!

TONIO HEAP LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH BEAUTIFUL MOTHER!

MANUEL, PEDRO, RIDE THE RANGE AND HERD THE CATTLE! I AM BACK, AND EVERYBODY MUST WORK HARD!

SI, DON ANTONIO!

IMMEDIATELY, DON ANTONIO!

HE TRIES HARD TO TAKE HIS FATHER'S PLACE!

IT NOT BE LONG BEFORE HIM GROW UP AND THEY NOT SMILE WHEN HIM GIVE ORDERS...THEY JUMP TO DO WHAT HIM TELL-UM!

SO TONIO HAVE RANCHO ONLY BIG ENOUGH FOR TWO GOATS AND ONE COW! LITTLE BEAVER, WHAT BE **MERIENDA**?

THAT BE SPANISH WORD FOR SOMETHING THAT ALWAYS INTEREST YOU... FOOD!

AI-EE, YES! ME HEAP HUNGRY!

THAT NOT UNUSUAL, FOR YOU!

COME WITH ME, PO-KO AND LITTLE BEAVER, WE WILL GO INSIDE...

WHAT BE THIS, TONIO?

FRIJOLES CON QUESO, CARNE FRITA, POLLO...

HIM MEAN BEANS, CHEESE, BEEF, CHICKEN! EAT AND NOT ASK QUESTIONS!

IT SMELL HEAP GOOD! ME TAKE BIG BITE OF EVERYTHING!

WHERE BE YOUR MOTHER, TONIO?

SHE WEEL JOIN US IN A MINUTE! I TOL' HER WHAT HAPPEN, AN' SHE EES VER' UPSET! I NO CAN GO TO TUCSON ALONE AGAIN!

EE-YI! SOMETHING IN FOOD BURN-UM MOUTH! IT BE ON FIRE!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAN'! FOOD IS SAME LIKE ALWAYS... FLAVORED WITH LITTLE CHILI PEPPERS!

DRINK WATER, PO-KO, QUICK!

I APOLOGIZE, PO-KO! I DID NOT REALIZE THAT YOU WERE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO OUR KIND OF FOOD!

OH, ME ALL RIGHT NOW...AND ME THINK ME LIKE-UM HOT TASTE!

I WISH TO THANK YOU, PO-KO AND LITTLE BEAVER, FOR HELPING TONIO ESCAPE FROM THE CHILD-STEALERS! IF I LOST HIM SO SOON AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH, I DO NOT THINK I COULD STAND IT!

TONIO DO PLENTY TO HELP SELF! THIS KID-NAP-UM BE BAD THING!

YES...MY HEART IS HEAVY FOR THOSE WHOSE SONS HAVE BEEN STOLEN TO WORK AS SLAVES IN THE MINES!

DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHERE MINES BE?

ONLY THAT THEY ARE FAR AWAY...AND THAT THE WORK IS SO DANGEROUS THAT MEN CANNOT BE HIRED TO DO IT! SO YOUNG BOYS ARE STOLEN AND FORCED UNDERGROUND, TO STAY THERE AS LONG AS THEY LIVE!

COME WITH ME, **AMIGOS**, AND I SHOW YOU MY RANCHO! FIRST, I GET YOU HORSES!

TAKE CARE, TONIO! DO NOT GO TOO FAR!

YOU NOT WORRY, DOÑA ANA! ME WATCH TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE!

HMPH! AND ME WATCH YOU... NOT THAT IT DO MUCH GOOD!

WE LOOK AT CATTLE, THEN THE **ZANJAS**...THE IRRIGATION DITCHES!

THIS BE HEAP FUN!

SOON SUN GO TO SLEEP, THOUGH, AND ME GOT TO BE IN NAVAJO CAMP, TO GUARD PONY HERD!

DO NOT GET OFF HORSES, OR THEY RUN AND HOOK HORNS AT YOU! NOW WE RIDE TO NEAREST **ZANJA**, THEN TO RESERVOIR WHICH CATCHES AND HOLDS WINTER RAINS FOR IRRIGATION!

THERE EES ENOUGH **AGUA**...WATER...EEN RESERVOIR TO RAISE FEED FOR CATTLE ALL SUMMER, IF WE USE IT VER' CAREFUL!

NAVAJOS USE IRRIGATION, TOO, TONIO, AND...WHERE BE PO-KO?

THERE BE HER HORSE...BUT PO-KO NOT IN SIGHT!

CARAMBA! THERE EES FIERCE BULL ON OTHER SIDE OF BRUSH FENCE!

MAYBE PO-KO THINK BULL LIKE PUSSY-KITTEN, AND TRY PET-UM! HOW WE GET THROUGH FENCE, TONIO?

THERE EES SMALL HOLE IN BRUSH STRAIGHT AHEAD!

WHILE LITTLE BEAVER AND TONIO MAKE TALK ABOUT WATER DITCH, ME PICK FLOWERS FOR WEAR TOMORROW NIGHT AT DANCE WHEN BIG POWWOW OVER, AND... WHAT MAKE THAT SNORT-UM NOISE?

HELP! SAVE ME, LITTLE BEAVER!

ME TRY! GET BEHIND ME, PO-KO!

I TAKE CARE OF BULL! EES SOMETHEENG I KNOW HOW TO DO!

HA, SEÑOR BULL! COME THEES WAY! LEAVE MY **AMIGOS** ALONE!

BULL WILL HURT HIM, LITTLE BEAVER!

COME BACK, TONIO! RUN FAST!

SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER, TAKE SEÑORITA PO-KO THROUGH FENCE QUEECK! I KEEP BULL AWAY TILL YOU SAFE!

HORN ALMOST STICK-UM! LITTLE BEAVER, MAKE TONIO STOP!

YOU DO ENOUGH, TONIO! **RUN TO FENCE!**

SI! I RUN NOW... SOON AS YOU GET ON OTHER SIDE!

BULL COME VER' CLOSE, THAT LAST TIME! I HOPE MY **MAMACITA** NEVER KNOW I DO THIS!

HER OUGHT TO SPANK YOU, IF HER FIND OUT... BUT ME GLAD YOU DO-UM, TONIO!

TONIO, YOU EVER SHAKE-UM SERAPE LIKE THAT 'N BULL'S FACE BEFORE?

NOT BULL! I ONLY PRACTICE SOME WITH SMALL COW...WHA' YOU CALL CALF!

TONIO HEAP BRAVE! HIM SAVE MY LIFE!

HIM BRAVE, ALL RIGHT, BUT IT NOT NECESSARY HIM SAVE ANYBODY, IF YOU STAY WHERE YOU SUPPOSE TO BE! THIS TWICE IN ONE DAY YOU GO OFF WITHOUT TELL-UM ME, PO-KO! ONE MORE TIME, ME NOT LET YOU GO ANYWHERE WITH ME AGAIN!

M-ME SORRY, LITTLE BEAVER! ME NOT GO AWAY AGAIN UNLESS YOU SAY ME CAN!

PO-KO BETTER NOT! NOW, WE LOOK LITTLE MORE, THEN WE GO BACK TO TUCSON!

I SEND VAQUEROS TO RIDE WEETH YOU, SO YOU BE-SAFE!

IT MAKE ME SAD TO THEENK MY GOOD **AMIGOS** MUS' GO! MAYBE YOU V.SIT MY RANCHO AGAIN SOME DAY, NO?

MAYBE, TONIO! AND IF YOU EVER COME TO NAVAJO COUNTRY, WE TRY SHOW YOU AS GOOD TIME AS YOU SHOW US!

SO THIS BE RESERVOIR!

SI! WATER EES VER' PRECIOUS! ONLY LAS' WEEK DITCH OVERFLOW, AN' FIFTY VAQUEROS COME QUEECK TO STOP EET!

TONIO, ME SEE-UM SMOKE IN HILLS! MAYBE BRUSH AND TREES THERE CATCH ON FIRE!

FIRE IN HILLS ALWAYS DANGEROUS! WHERE YOU SEE EET, SEÑORITA?

THERE...IN FAR-OFF LITTLE CANYON!

THAT BE SMOKE FROM COOK-FIRE! SOMEBODY MAKE-UM CAMP IN CANYON!

ME SEE HORSES AND MEN! AND SOMETHING ELSE...IT LOOK LIKE BUNCH OF BOYS!

YOU SEE ALL THOSE? I SEE ONLY SMOKE!

NOBODY HAVE SUCH KEEN EYES AS LITTLE BEAVER! MAYBE THAT BE CAMP OF CHILDREN-STEALERS!

ME THINK SAME THING, PO-KO. BUT IT NECESSARY ME GET CLOSER TO CANYON CAMP AND FIND OUT FOR SURE!

I GO WEETH YOU, SEÑOR!

ME, TOO!

YOU BOTH STAY HERE! TONIO NO CAN SCOUT LIKE INJUN, AND PO-KO WORRY ME ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY! IF ME NOT COME BACK SOON, RIDE TO RANCHO AND BRING VAQUEROS TO HUNT FOR ME!

ME, I AM DON FEDERICO ANTONIO DE HIGUERRA, AND THEES EES MY RANCHO! I GO WEETH YOU!

YOU HEAP FOOLISH LITTLE BOY, AND YOUR MAMA WANT YOU HOME, SAFE! YOU STAY HERE!

TAKE CARE OF SELF, LITTLE BEAVER! ME STAY, LIKE YOU TELL-UM ME, BUT WORRY PLENTY TILL YOU GET BACK!

ONLY THING WORRY-UM ME IS THAT ME BE LATE FOR NIGHT GUARD OF NAVAJO PONY HERD!

ME GET JUST CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ONE QUICK LOOK AT CAMP IN CANYON, THEN SKEDADDLE! IT BETTER TO BE CAREFUL' THAN MAYBE BE HAUL-UM OFF TO MINES, WHERE ME NEVER SEE SUNSHINE AGAIN!

AI-EE! ME SEE AT LEAST DOZEN BOYS, HANDS TIED BEHIND-UM! THIS BE CAMP OF CHILDREN-STEALERS, ALL RIGHT! NOW ME GET OUT OF HERE, AND NOT MAKE ANY SOUND AT AL'L!

ME SEND PO-KO AND TONIO TO RIDE FAST AND BRING HELP, WHILE ME STAY, KEEP WATCH ON CHILDREN-STEALERS! UH... NOISE IN BRUSH! SOMEBODY COME TOWARD ME!

TONIO! WHAT YOU DO HERE?

HOLA, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER! WHA' I DO HERE? I TELL YOU! I AM DON FEDERICO ANTONIO DE HIGUERRA, AND...

ME KNOW REST OF-UM! BECAUSE YOU WANT BE GREAT **CABALLERO**, LIKE YOUR FATHER, YOU LEAVE PO-KO, FOLLOW ME... AND MAKE MORE NOISE IN BRUSH THAN LOST COW!

CARAMBA! I NOT CAN WAIT AND DO NOTHEENG WHILE YOU, MY BRAVE **AMIGO**, TAKE SUCH BEEG CHANCE!

MAYBE SOMEDAY ME FIND SOMEBODY WHO DO WHAT ME TELL-UM! NOW WE RUN BACK TO RESERVOIR FAST BEFORE CHILDREN-STEALERS COME TO SEE WHO FLOUNDER AROUND IN BRUSH!

M-ME THEENK THEY ALREADY FIND OUT, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER!

UGH! YOU RIGHT, TONIO! NOW LEGS WORK HEAP QUICK, OR ME NEVER SEE NAVAJO COUNTRY AGAIN!

MAMACITA MIA! I WEESH NOW I STAY AT RESERVOIR AND NOT TRY BE SO BRAVE A **CABALLERO!**

NEARBY, ON THE RIDGE...

I TOLD YOU I HEARD SOMEBODY IN TH' BRUSH, BUCK! THERE'S TWO YOUNGUNS DOWN BELOW US!

AN' THEY'RE THE SAME ONES WHO GAVE US TH' SLIP THIS AFTERNOON! LET'S GET 'EM, CHIGGER!

BRUSH BE SO THICK BAD MEN HAVE TROUBLE RIDE THROUGH-UM! MAYBE WE GET AWAY!

BRUSH EES THEECK FOR US, TOO! I WEESH I HAVE PALOMINO HORSE TO RIDE, RIGHT NOW!

ME KEEP SHARP LOOKOUT, MAYBE ME FIND GOOD PLACE TO HIDE...

CARAMBA! SOMETHEENG TRIP ME!

TONIO, GET UP! THIS NO TIME TO TAKE REST!

I NOT TAKING REST! THEES BRUSH CATCH MY FOOT AND WEEL NOT LET GO!

ME PULL YOU LOOSE! THEN WE SEPARATE, RUN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, AND MAYBE ONE OF US GET-UM AWAY!

NO, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER, LEAVE ME AND SAVE YOURSELF!

NOW YOU BE FREE, TONIO! IF THEY CATCH-UM YOU, NO GIVE UP EASY!

GRAB TH' ONE IN TH' BIG HAT, BUCK! I'LL PUT MY LOOP ON TH' LITTLE INJUN!

AI-EE! ME CAUGHT!

YUH SURE ARE, KID! AN' YUH'LL NEVER GET LOOSE AGAIN!

HOMBRE MALDITO! BAD MAN CATCH ME, TOO!

STOP RIGHT THERE, YUH LITTLE VARMINT! YOU'RE GONNA BE WORTH **MUCHO DINERO** TO ME AT TH' MINES!

YOU'RE A HUSKY YOUNG FELLER... JUST TH' KIND TO HARNESS TO AN ORE CART! STAND STILL, NOW, WHILE I TIE YOUR HANDS...

ME NO GIVE-UM UP WITH-OUT FIGHT!

OW! YUH PESKY LITTLE CATAMOUNT, I'LL MAKE YUH PAY FOR THAT!

TAKE-UM THAT! AND IF ME CAN GET ARMS LOOSE, ME GIVE YOU POKE IN NOSE!

BUCK, THIS INJUN KID DANG NEAR BUSTED MY LEG!

YEAH? TH' ONE I CAUGHT BUTTED ME IN TH' STOMACH!

WE'LL TELL 'EM AT TH' MINES TO BE SURE THESE TWO GET PLENTY OF HARD WORK!

YEAH! I'LL TIE UP TH' OTHER ONE, NOW, AN' WE'LL HEAD FOR CAMP!

GET GOIN'...AN' DON'T TRY ANY MONKEY BUSINESS!

WHEN STEELE SEES THESE TWO, HE'LL BREAK CAMP AN' PULL OUTA HERE...AN' THAT'S WHAT WE WANT! MARCH!

I AM VER' SORRY, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER! IF I STAY AT RESERVOIR, YOU ESCAPE BAD MEN, SURE!

NO BE SORRY TONIO! AND NO GIVE UP! SOME WAY OUT SURE TO COME ALONG IF WE KEEP EYES OPEN AND CHINS STIFF!

MAYBE-SO YOU BE RIGHT! ME HOPE **MUCHO** TO SEE MY **M-MAMACITA** AGAIN!

THAT BE-UM RIGHT SPIRIT...

STOP YOUR GAB AN' WALK FASTER!

AT THE CANYON HEADQUARTERS OF THE KIDNAPERS....

HEY, STEELE! COME AN' SEE WHAT ME AN' CHIGGER HAVE BROUGHT YUH!

YEAH! WE GRABBED A COUPLE OF YOUNGUNS THAT WAS OBLIGIN' ENOUGH TO WALK ALMOST INTO CAMP TO GET CAUGHT!

HMM! THEY'RE YOUNGER THAN TH' OTHERS! I DUNNO WHETHER THEY'LL STAND THAT HARD MINE WORK VERY LONG!

AW, STEELE, LET'S TAKE 'EM AN' GET AWAY FROM HERE!

YEAH! SOMEBODY'S LIABLE TO SPOT US IF WE HANG AROUND ANY LONGER!

ALL RIGHT! I GUESS TH' MINE OWNERS WON'T BE TOO CHOOSEY! PUT THEM WITH TH' OTHERS...AN' AS SOON AS IT'S DARK, WE'LL BREAK CAMP AN' HEAD OUT THROUGH TH' HILLS!

LATER...

EES GROWEENG DARK! IF WE DO ANYTHEENG, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER, WE MUS' DO EET SOON!

ME WORK HARD ON-UM, TONIO!

WHEN BAD MEN TIE HANDS, ME PUT MINE TOGETHER, INSTEAD OF CROSS-UM, AND MAKE SLACK IN ROPE! NOW ME ALMOST WIGGLE-UM FREE AGAIN!

CARAMBA! THEES BE VER' GOOD NEWS! GET HANDS LOOSE, QUEECK!

THEY BE FREE! NOW ME UNTIE YOU, TONIO!

AY DE MI! I THEENK EET TOO LATE...SEE, BAD MEN COME TO TAKE US AWAY! SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER, YOU NOT WAIT FOR ME...RUN AND HIDE EEN DARK!

GET TH' KIDS ON THEIR FEET, AN' START 'EM MOVIN'! WE'VE GOTTA COVER PLENTY OF MILES BEFORE MORNING!

RIGHT! IF THEY LAG ANY, WE'LL USE OUR QUIRTS ON 'EM!

UGH! KNOTS BE HEAP TIGHT! BUT THEY COME LOOSE! GET ON FEET, TONIO, AND PRETEND HANDS STILL TIED!

SI! THEN WHA' ME DO?

WHEN ME GIVE WORD, WE RUN AND CLIMB FAST UP CANYON WALL WHERE MEN ON HORSES NO CAN FOLLOW US! IN DARK, MAYBE WE GET AWAY!

YOU BETTER SAY WORD QUEECK! THEY COME FOR US, RIGHT NOW!

LET'S GET THEM TWO WE GRABBED! I WANT 'EM HANDY SO WE CAN REALLY MAKE 'EM JUMP IF THEY DON'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO SUIT US!

ESPECIALLY THAT LITTLE INJUN! I'M GONNA PAY BACK TH' KICK HE HANDED ME!

NOW, TONIO! RUN FAST!

HEY, THEY'RE ESCAPIN'!

STOP 'EM!

HOMBRES MALDITOS! BAD MEN, WE LEAVE YOU!

USE YOUR GUNS! IF THEY GET AWAY, TH' WHOLE COUNTRY WILL BE ON OUR NECKS BEFORE MORNING!

WE'LL RUN 'EM DOWN!

YEAH...IN A HURRY!

WALLS HERE BE TOO STEEP TO CLIMB! WHERE WE CAN GET UP-UM, TONIO?

I...NOT KNOW! I NEVER BE... IN THEES PLACE..BEFORE!

WHAT BE WRONG WITH YOU, TONTO?

I... HURT LEG WHEN I FALL DOWN... BEFORE! I NO CAN RUN ON EET! SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER, LEAVE ME!

BANG!

BANG!

THEY SHOOT GUNS AT US! PRETEND LEG ALL RIGHT AND RUN, TONIO!

EET NO USE! TELL MY **MAMACITA** I TRY HARD... BE VER' BRAVE **CABALLERO**... LIKE MY FATHER!

WHEN ME IN TROUBLE BEFORE, PO-KO ALWAYS BE HELP! NOW, WHEN ME NEED HER MOST, SHE WAIT AT RESERVOIR AFTER ME ORDER HER NOT TO DO-UM ANYTH NG!

WELL, NO USE CRY ABOUT-UM NOW! IF BAD MEN COME CLOSE, MAYBE ME GET TO HIT AT LEAST ONE HARD! BUT... WHERE THEY BE?

SILENCIO! I THEENK I HEAR YELLS!

ABAJO LOS MALDITOS!

BANG!

BANG!

ME HEAR-UM, TOO! AND NOBODY CHASE US ANY MORE! COME QUICK, TONIO... WE GO SEE WHAT HAPPEN!

MY VAQUEROS MAKE THEES YELLS! THEY COME TO HELP US!

MY VAQUEROS SAY, "DOWN WITH THE BAD MEN"...!

HERE COME ONE BAD MAN NOW! AND MAY-BE ME STOP HIM RIGHT HERE...!

AH-HEE! YOU NOT MAKE-UM RUNAWAY!

CARAMBA! YOU STOP HEEM JUS' LIKE YOU SAY!

MANY TIMES ME PLAY THROW-UM STICK GAME, NOW COME IN HANDY!

MIRA! LOOK, SEÑOR LITTLE BEAVER! THEES BE LEADER OF BAD MEN!

YEG! HIM THE ONE THEY CALL STEELE! NOW MORE MEN COME!

THEES BE MY VAQUEROS!

MAMACITA!

HIJO MIO! MY SON, I WAS SO AFRAID...!

TONIO BE HEAP BRAVE CABALLERO, DOÑA ANA!

LITTLE LATER...

WHAT ME NOT UNDERSTAND, DOÑA ANA, HOW YOU KNOW TONIO AND ME BE HERE!

WE ALL HAVE SOMEONE TO THANK FOR WARNING US...

HER MEAN ME, LITTLE BEAVER!

PO-KO!

MAYBE AFTER THIS YOU NOT TELL ME STAND STILL AND NOT DO-UM ANY-THING WHEN YOU GET YOU'SELF IN TROUBLE!

ME KNOW YOU STAY AT RESERVOIR AFTER YOU MAKE-UM ME PROMISE YOU WILL! SO HOW YOU SEND WARNING TO BRING VAQUEROS?

OH, THAT HEAP EASY...

ME SEE BAD MEN MAKE GRAB OF YOU AND TONIO, AND ME REMEMBER HIM SAY WATER SO PRECIOUS THEY NOT USE-UM MUCH, SO ME OPEN BIG GATE WIDE AND LET-UM RUN OUT FAST! ME-KNOW VAQUEROS COME QUICK WHEN THEY SEE DITCHES FLOW OVER!

WHEN I HEARD THE FIELDS WERE BEING FLOODED, I GATHERED ALL OUR VAQUEROS AND RODE WITH THEM TO THE RESERVOIR! PO-KO BROUGHT US HERE ...NOW WE WILL GO BACK FOR A FEAST AND DANCE TO CELEBRATE THE RESCUE OF THE STOLEN BOYS!

AI-EE! THAT BE HEAP FUN! SAY WE CAN STAY FOR CELEBRATION, LITTLE BEAVER!

ONLY THING YOU LIKE MORE THAN MAKE-UM EAT IS MAKE-UM DANCE! WELL...IT BE HEAP LATE BEFORE WE GET BACK TO CAMP ANYWAY...SO WE STAY!

TONIGHT, ME **CABALLERO**, JUST LIKE TONIO! TOMORROW, ME JUST LITTLE INJUN BOY AGAIN, TRY-UM EXPLAIN TO HEADMAN WHY ME NOT AT NAVAJO CAMP TO GUARD PONY HERD!

LITTLE BEAVER

PO-KO, THIS BE TOO NICE A DAY FOR GRIND-UM CORN! GET-UM CALICO AND WE RIDE INTO HILLS FOR PICK-UM BERRIES!

AI-EE! ME LIKE THAT HEAP MUCH, BUT ME NO CAN DO-UM...

BROTHER AND HIS SQUAW MAKE-UM TRIP TO INJUN AGENCY, AND LEAVE THEIR YOUNG BRAVE, BIG ELK, FOR ME TO WATCH!

BIG ELK? ME NO SEE...

...HIM!

BIG ELK, YOU STOP-UM THAT!

ME THROW-UM ROCKS HEAP GOOD!

AND ME THROW-UM HAND IN HARD SPANK IF YOU AIM AT ANY-BODY'S HEAD AGAIN!

YOUNG BRAVE GOT NAME AND BRITCHES JUST ALIKE...BOTH BE TOO BIG FOR-UM!

LITTLE BEAVER, ME GOT WONDERFUL IDEA...! WE GO PICK BERRIES, AND TAKE BIG ELK ALONG!

UGH! THAT NOT SOUND SO WONDERFUL TO ME!

YOU NOT LIKE-UM, THEN YOU GO PICK BERRIES ALL BY OWN SELF!

WELL... ME GOT FEELING ME BE HEAP SORRY LATER, BUT... ALL RIGHT! HIM CAN COME ALONG!

BG ELK, CATCH-UM SMALL DONKEY, LIGHTNING, FOR RIDE UP TO HILLS!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

UGH! DONKEY GO LIKE MOLASSES, NOT LIGHTNING! NOW PO-KO GET WAY 'HEAD OF US, AND HIM NOT GO AT ALL!

WE WAIT! HIM GO WHEN GOOD AND READY!

HMPH! HIM BETTER BE GOOD AND READY RIGHT NOW!

NO DO THAT! LIGHTNING NOT LIKE-UM!

AI-EE! GRAB PAPOOSE QUICK, BIG ELK!

YOU GRAB-UM! ME HANG ON TO LIGHTNING!

PAPOOSE RUN FAST ALL WAY BACK TO VILLAGE, ME THINK!

IF ME HAD-UM LICK OF SENSE, ME DO SAME THING! BUT...

HELP, LITTLE BEAVER! COME QUICK!

THAT BE PANTHER SCREAM! ME WONDER WHAT TROUBLE PO-KO FIND NOW TO DUMP-UM ON ME!

ROWR-R!

ME LEAVE CALICO TO PICK FLOWERS, AND PANTHER SCARE HER SO HER MAKE RUNAWAY! ME HEAP SCARED!

ME NO SEE PANTHER, SO HIM PROBABLY SCARED AND MAKE RUNAWAY, TOO! NOW, BOTH OF US GOT LONG WALK BACK TO VILLAGE!

ME NOT WALK-UM BACK! ME WAIT HERE TILL YOU BRING PONY TO RIDE!

STOP SILLY CACKLE! ME FIND SHEEP TRACKS!

YOU ACT' LIKE YOU NEVER SEE SHEEP TRACKS BEFORE!

ME NEVER BEFORE SEE-UM HERE IN HILLS, WHERE THEY NOT BELONG! AND THESE TRACKS BE HEAP FRESH!

PO-KO! BAD MEN STEAL NAVAJO SHEEP AND DRIVE-UM THROUGH HILLS! NOW THEY MAKE SHORT STOP FOR REST!

WH-WHAT WE DO NOW, LITTLE BEAVER?

WE NOT DO ANYTHING! BUT ME GO DOWN AND SCATTER SHEEP! MAYBE WHILE WHITE MEN CHASE-UM, ME THINK OF SOME WAY TO GET-UM BACK!

ME WANT TO GO WITH YOU!

MIKE, THESE WOOLIES WILL MEAN PLENTY OF MONEY IN OUR POCKETS WHEN WE SELL 'EM TO SOME BIG SHEEP-HERDER BEYOND TH' HILLS!

YEAH, LEM! AN' LET'S SHOVE 'EM ON QUICK BEFORE TH' NAVAJOS DISCOVER THEY'RE GONE!

MAKE-UM SHUT-UP.. AND START TO MOVE BEFORE PO-KO DECIDE HER GOT TO COME AND LEND-UM ME A HAND... AI-EE! SOMEBODY ELSE RIDE HERE IN HURRY!

BAAA

BAA-A

IT'S AN INJUN KID, MIKE!

AN' THERE'S ANOTHER ONE! THEY'RE TRYIN' TO SCATTER TH' SHEEP! I'LL GRAB HIM... YOU CATCH THAT DONKEY!

UGH! FINE TIME FOR FOOLISH DONKEY TO DECIDE TO RUN... BAD MAN SEE US NOW!

STOP, YUH LITTLE VARMINT! YUH CAN'T GET AWAY!

ME MUST HAVE SOFT SPOT IN HEAD, TO LET BIG ELK COME 'LONG TODAY AND GET-UM ME IN THIS FIX!

CAN'T RIDE ANY FARTHER... BUT I CAN RUN FASTER THAN ANY KID!

EVERY TIME ME NEED PAPOOSE MOST, HIM BE SOMEWHERE ELSE!

MAYBE ME HAVE CHANCE TO GET AMONG ROCKS AND PLAY HIDE-UM AND GO HUNT WITH BAD MAN!

WHEN I...CATCH YUH ...I'LL MAKE YUH...PAY...FOR ALL THIS RUNNIN'!

AI-EE! ME NO GOT T.ME TO HIDE!

IN A MINUTE ...NOW...I'LL HAVE MY HANDS... ON YUH!

AH-HA! NOW I GOTCHA!

MAYBE SO... BUT YOU NOT FIND-UM EASY TO KEEP ME!

UGH! ME LOSE SOME SKIN FROM SHOULDER! HIM GOT LONGER LEGS...HIM CATCH ME SURE IF THIS KEEP UP! BUT HOLD-UM ON! BAD MAN NOT CHASE ME NOW!

MY FOOT'S JAMMED BETWEEN A COUPLA ROCKS! I CAN'T GET IT OUT... AN' I CAN'T GET MY BOOT OFF! I'M STUCK!

THAT BE HEAP OKAY-DOAKUM WITH ME!

LOOK, KID, I'VE GOT MONEY! I'LL PAY YUH! HELP ME OUTA HERE AN' YOU'LL BE GLAD YUH DID!

OH, ME BE GLAD ALL RIGHT... WHEN NAVAJO SHEEP BE BACK WHERE THEM BELONG!

THAT BE BIG PIECE OF LUCK! NOW MAYBE ME FIND WAY TO CATCH-UM OTHER BAD MAN, TOO!

LEM, COME GET ME OUTA HERE, QUICK!

YELLS OF BAD MAN WITH BOOT CAUGHT PROBABLY BRING OTHER ONE HEAP SOON! SO ME HAVE TO WORK FAST...!

SLIPKNOT IN VINE NOT LIABLE TO LAST LONG! BUT IF IT HOLD ONE MINUTE, THAT BE LONG ENOUGH... ME HOPE!

THIS BE GOOD WAY TO CATCH-UM WILD PONY! NOW ME FIND OUT IF IT ALSO GOOD WAY TO CATCH-UM BAD MAN!

MIKE! WHERE ARE YUH?

NOW ME LOOK FOR GOOD PLACE TO USE THIS!

I'M UP HERE, LEM! WATCH OUT FOR THAT BIGGEST INJUN KID... HE'S TRICKY!

THIS BE AS GOOD PLACE AS ANY! BUT HIM MUST COME CLOSER...!

THAT LITTLE IMP ON TH' DONKEY GOT AWAY! I GOTTA FIND MIKE AN' MOVE THOSE SHEEP AWAY FROM HERE, FAST!

IF HIM NOT LOOK UP, ME THINK THIS WORK-UM OUT JUST RIGHT!

LITTLE BEAVER, LOOK OUT! BAD MAN BE BELOW YOU!

UGH! PO-KO MAKE-UM YELL ONE MINUTE TOO QUICK!

NO, YUH DON'T! YUH PESKY LITTLE INJUN, I'VE GOT YUH...!

OW!

BANG!

NOT THIS TIME, BAD MAN!

MAKE-UM QUICK LIE-DOWN, NICE AND QUIET!

LET ME HELP, LITTLE BEAVER!

THIS BE ONE TIME YOU SHOW UP TOO LATE, PO-KO! ME CATCH BOTH BAD MEN ALL BY LONESOME!

HO! ME SUPPOSE ROCK ME THROW HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH-UM!

IF PO-KO NO TELL ME NOT THROW AT ANYBODY'S HEAD, ME HIT BAD MAN SO HARD IT NOT BE NECESSARY FOR LITTLE BEAVER TO USE SILLY NOOSE!

HMPH! LITTLE BRAVE MAKE-UM BIG TALK... BUT MAYBE HIM RIGHT!

NOW, THERE BE PLENTY FOR EVERYBODY TO DO! PO-KO, PICK UP BAD MAN'S GUN! BIG ELK, HELP ME TIE-UM UP! THEN WE GET OTHER BAD MAN WHO BE STUCK IN ROCKS!

PO-KO, YOU AND BIG ELK WATCH SHEEP AND BAD MEN, WHILE ME RIDE DONKEY TO VILLAGE AND SEND HELP!

YOU NOT RIDE LIGHTNING! HIM NOT LIKE YOU!

ME THINK BIG ELK RIGHT, LITTLE BEAVER! ME NOT LIKE LOOK IN DONKEY'S EYE!

POOH! DON'T WORRY! **ME** KNOW HOW TO HANDLE-UM! YOU SEE!

NEXT DAY...

HO! ALL THE TIME ME THINK LITTLE BEAVER HEAP TOUGH BRAVE... BUT AFTER RIDE-UM SMALL DONKEY, HIM HAVE TO SIT ON SOFT CUSHION!

UGH! ME TOUGH ENOUGH, ALL RIGHT...

...BUT JUST WHEN WE REACH VILLAGE YESTERDAY, FOOLISH DONKEY BUCK ME OFF IN CACTUS PATCH! THAT BE WHY ME SIT-UM ON SOFT CUSHION TODAY!

INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

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(Continued from inside front cover)

Sign language was simple. It employed movements of hands and arms that were natural and easy. Motions gave meanings in a natural way. Thus, to say "baby" the Indian cradled his arms, as though holding a baby. He said, "you," by pointing to the person with whom he was speaking. And so on.

In sign language, it was not necessary to make complete sentences. Only key words were employed. An Indian might ask, "How many buffalo are there?" by making the question sign and the sign of "many buffalo."

And so, to the Indians who thought of most things in terms of pictures, the most natural thing in the world was to attempt to reproduce these pictures with physical motions when words were not at hand.

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